

jobs, 357,000 more than previously reported; and yet this morning, President Bush announced his opposition to the unemployment extension that we attempted to get here today in the budget resolution, calling it "objectionable" in the statement of administration policy.

We are hearing lots of plans about aid to flow to the Iraqi people, including food and medicine. This is aid that must be provided. But while the United States Army also takes on the role of humanitarian assistance in a military zone, the Salvation Army here at home is facing a swelling need for services and a downturn in donations that have led to an unprecedented lack of food for people in our own economic war zone.

The Salvation Army in my own hometown has seen a 42 percent increase in requests for assistance just this year. At the start of the fiscal year last October, our Women, Infants and Children food program reported the highest level of participants ever; and nationally we have the highest number of participants in the last 5 years.

Just since January 2001, America has lost nearly 2 million more jobs. In Toledo, my hometown, military spouses are showing up at the Women, Infants and Children feeding offices because their husbands have been called up for active duty, cutting the income of families by drastic amounts.

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The Cleveland Plain Dealer last month told us, at a pantry in Columbus's west side, a 67-year-old retiree gets groceries to help feed a daughter and a granddaughter who moved in with him last year. He remembers relatives telling of bread lines during the Great Depression. He never imagined he would see himself in one, let alone wait in one.

There is no doubt that the United States is the freest and most bountiful Nation on earth. That is why people want to come here. But do we not owe as much to hardworking Americans as we do to war-torn Iraqis? Do we not need to build our economic might here at home as much as our military might abroad? Do we not need to plan as much for our economic-torn economy as much as we do the Iraqi war-torn economy? Do we not need a coalition of allies with labor and management for job creation and economic improvement as much as we need a coalition of military forces in the Gulf? If we can provide money to airlines who are claiming they are being hurt by the war, should we not also provide an additional 26 weeks of unemployment benefits to airline workers who are the real victims of the slowdown?

Military war, of necessity, is receiving most of our attention of late, but how about the enemy within? The economic war here at home? It seems to me that the weapons of war may be more visible when they are used, but the damage of an economic war is just as real for individuals and families and

communities that are suffering here at home. Our State is over \$4 billion in debt. Our mayor, he is broke. It just seems to me that our news ought to talk a little bit about what is happening here at home.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the second war that we are in on our home soil gets equal attention in the media.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS FAILING IN ITS DUTIES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Government is still not doing its job on homeland security. It is failing in a very, very elementary manner. The way it is failing is that it is failing to give the tools that our local communities need to prepare an adequate homeland security plan and procedures in our towns and in our cities.

It is very sad to say that where the rubber meets the road on homeland security, and that is in our cities and towns, this administration and the majority party in this Congress are not giving our cities and towns the tools they need to do the job. The sad fact is, the Federal Government is not cutting the mustard when it comes to helping our cities and towns prepare their police departments for terrorism, prepare their fire departments for terrorism, prepare their emergency response plans for terrorism. The job is simply not getting done.

Now, we had a little bit of good news today out in the State of Washington. The city of Seattle will be receiving about \$11 million to help with some of their plans. But unfortunately, all of the cities and towns around Seattle are not getting help from the Federal Government, and they need it.

I will give an example. The town of Bothell, Washington has and will spend over \$200,000 this year on their homeland security plans to deal with terrorism, from buying gas masks to training for their personnel. Over \$200,000, Mr. Speaker, and no help from the Federal Government. The city of Monroe will spend over \$45,000. The city of Monroe is not the largest city in the whole country. They are not getting help from the Federal Government. Mountlake Terrace, a small town in my district, they are spending \$2,400 on gas masks, just one little tiny element for their expenditures, together with overtime for their officers, no help from the Federal Government. The city of Edmonds is spending \$145,000 for homeland security, a significant figure for overtime, for training of their personnel, and over \$30,000 of training of their fire department for hazardous materials training, no help from the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, where is the help of the Federal Government for Edmonds to deal with terrorism training, for Bothell to deal with gas masks, for Mountlake Terrace to deal with overtime, for Edmonds for their HAZMAT training? Where is the help for our cities that the Federal Government should be giving to these local communities? It is not getting done. The reason it is not getting done is that this Chamber and the other Chamber are not passing the appropriations that should be passed to help these local communities.

Now, on this floor last week, we in the minority party made an effort to increase the appropriation and supplemental budget to get help to Edmonds, to Mountlake Terrace, to Bothell so that they can prepare an adequate homeland security response. And we wanted to boost, by \$2.5 billion, help for our first responders, for our police and fire departments. But unfortunately, the majority party stymied that and would not support these increases in our plans to deal with homeland security.

I think it is important to point out the reason for that. The reason that this bill did not pass to help these local communities is that the majority party thought it was more important to give the folks at Enron tax breaks in their multibillion-dollar tax package than it was to give the city of Edmonds help for gas masks, the city of Bothell help for overtime for their police departments.

We believe in the Democratic Party it is more important to help these local communities deal with the threat of terrorism as a first job before giving these tax cuts, a predominant amount of which goes to the wealthiest Americans in the country. We believe that, because the city of Edmonds has a job to do for the people they represent, and that is to do an adequate job to get ready for potential terrorism. The city of Bothell has that responsibility. The city of Mountlake Terrace has that responsibility. We are going to continue working on this until we get this job done, because Americans are entitled to know their local communities have responded with as much vigor as we are seeing in Iraq from our very, very proud, honest, and effective military personnel today serving in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that folks will join us in this effort, because our local communities need the help of the Federal Government.

IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

HONORING OFFICER CHARLES CLARK, A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many times we come, sadly,